

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 16 and 17 have been added as new claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicant notes that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification and abstract for grammatical and general readability purposes. Due to the number of changes made, a substitute specification and abstract are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract showing the changes incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner noted that the phrase “the thermal head” in claim 1 does not have proper antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 1 so as to address the antecedent basis issue with the above-noted limitation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-15 include allowable subject matter. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended so as to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, thereby placing claims 1-15 in condition for allowance.

In addition to the above-noted change to claim 1, Applicant notes that minor editorial changes have been made to the claims for improved clarity and to place these claims in better U.S. form. Such changes have not been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims or to address issues related to patentability.

Further, regarding new claims 16 and 17, Applicant notes that these claims depend from claims 4 and 5, respectively, and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Regarding the features recited in claims 16 and 17, Applicant notes that similar features were removed from claims 4 and 5 so as to improve the overall clarity of the claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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